Other Facilities

The WIYN Observatory, consisting of 3.5-meter and 0.9-meter telescopes located at Kitt Peak National Observatory, Tucson, AZ, is operated by the WIYN Consortium, whose members include the University of Wisconsin, Indiana University, Yale University, and the National Optical Astronomy Observatories. The IU Department of Astronomy also operates the Geothe Link Observatory with stations near Mooresville, IN and in Morgan-Monroe State Forest.

WIYN 3.5-meter Telescope

Website

Visit our extensive website for more information on facilities, history, current research, and academic programs at http://www.astro.indiana.edu.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Department of Astronomy

727 East 3rd Street, Swain West 319

Bloomington, IN 47405-7105

Phone (812) 855.6911

Fax (812) 855-8725

www.astro.indiana.edu

Kirkwood Observatory

Department of Astronomy

Kirkwood Observatory is located at the edge of the crescent woods on the Bloomington campus near the intersection of Indiana Avenue and 4th street. This building is the most obvious and accessible of the Astronomy Department's facilities. It houses a 0.3-meter (12-inch) refracting telescope and a solar telescope which are used for undergraduate studies and public outreach.

History of Kirkwood Observatory

The Kirkwood Observatory was constructed in 1900 and dedicated on May 15, 1901. The dedication address was given by the eminent astronomer William J. Hussey, a member of the staff of the Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, California. The title of his talk was: Astronomy in Modern Life. President Joseph Swain spoke about his teacher Daniel Kirkwood, for whom the observatory was named.

Kirkwood Hall, also built during the Swain administration was dedicated on January 25, 1895, 4 ½ months before Daniel Kirkwood's death. East Fifth Street had been re-named Kirkwood Avenue in 1885, a year before he retired.

Kirkwood's research on comets, meteors, and asteroids in the mid-19th century established a tradition of distinguished astronomical research at Indiana University. The first Director of the Kirkwood Observatory, John A. Miller, continued this tradition by using the 12-inch telescope at the observatory to study visual binary stars. He also got approval from President Swain to hire Wilbur A. Cogshall, an experienced visual binary star observer who had worked as T.J.J. See's assistant at the Lowell Observatory, Flagstaff, Arizona for several years. Cogshall came to Bloomington in 1900. Miller and Cogshall were active as a team making observations of binary stars from 1901 to 1906, when Miller left to join Joseph Swain at Swarthmore College. Cogshall was appointed Director of the Kirkwood Observatory in 1907 and served in that capacity until he retired in 1944.

After Cogshall's retirement, Frank K. Edmondson became the third Director of the Kirkwood Observatory (1944-1978).

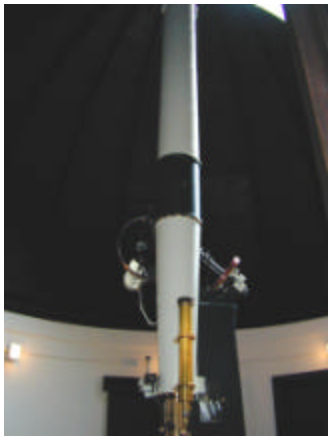
Kirkwood Observatory
early 1900's

Department History

Astronomy has been part of the Indiana University curriculum for more than 150 years. Important early astronomical research was carried out at Indiana University by Professor Daniel Kirkwood from 1856 to 1886. He is best known for his discovery and interpretation of the clear areas in the radial distribution of asteroid orbits that are called "Kirkwood's Gaps" in his honor. The Department of Mechanics and Astronomy was created by the Board of Trustees on June 14, 1895. John A. Miller was appointed Head of the Department and chose the name.

Public Nights

The 12-inch telescope is staffed for free public viewing each Wednesday evening, March through October, when classes are in session. If the weather is clear, the observatory opens just after dark. No reservations are necessary.



12-inch telescope

Solar Observing

The Kirkwood Observatory solar telescope is an instructional instrument consisting of a rooftop mounted heliostat that directs a beam of sunlight into a dedicated room where the solar photosphere and chromosphere can be studied. Group showings are available by contacting the Astronomy Department at (812) 855-6911, or by sending an email to request@astro.indiana.edu

Solar Telescope